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THE DIXIE YANKEE

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE • SOUTHERN REGION

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PINE TREE BANKING

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For years foresters have been saying that trees are like money in the bank--that the sustained yield harvest is the equivalent of interest on the principal investment. The "profit" phase of pine-tree banking has been demonstrated by two practical foresters in Arkansas with sufficient success to convince the most skeptical and conservative banker. Samuel Lubell and Al Pollard in a recent issue of American Forests tell the success story of Leslie K. Pomeroy and Eugene Connor, two daring young men, who in 1925 were working for a Wisconsin lumbering company. These two musketeers had gone to the University of Wisconsin and had worked together at the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison. They saw the possibilities in the sustained yield plan of lumbering and did something about it. They came South to cut timber and sell lumber.

They borrowed money and bought an abandoned sawmill and 160 acres of second growth timber in Wilmar, Arkansas. As they made profits from their small sawmill, these young men bought several thousand acres of fine timber. But they never could buy enough to keep their mill going under the conservative cutting plans they had determined upon. So they devised a system which they labelled "pine-tree banking," under which they are managing the timber of hundreds of their farmer neighbors by selective cutting methods. The trees are cut only as they reach maturity, and cutting more trees than the maximum set by the sustained yield plan is not permitted.

This assures a continuous crop of trees, and also improves the owner's timber stand.

Under their program the land owner or "depositor" agrees to sell whatever timber is cut from his holdings to Pomeroy and Connor at the market price, and they place his woodlands under sustained yield management. One depositor is putting her son through college with the interest earned by her tree holdings; another depositor has a forty-acre tract which he calls his "tax reserve". He meets his tax bills, about \$100 annually, by drawing on his timber; other landowners count on their tree crops for emergencies like sickness or crop failure.

The idea has grown and the program has expanded until the former Wisconsin lumber jacks now have several hundred farmer "depositors" in their pine-tree "bank". Each farmer decides when his quota of trees is to be cut, and with a good stand he can figure on a yearly "interest" of about \$2 an acre. All that is needed for him to earn that rate of interest is to let his trees grow--he has no crop to plant, no seed or fertilizer to buy--nothing to do but clip the "coupons" on his investment.

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NEWSPRINT AND PAPER PRODUCTS FROM SOUTHERN PINE

The Tennessee Valley Paper Mills, Inc. proposes to construct and operate a mill near Savannah, Tennessee, for the manufacture of newsprint paper from southern pine. Options have been secured on 105,000 acres of timberlands in Tennessee and Alabama. The output is intended to go largely to newspaper publishers in the South Atlantic States. The company has applied for an RFC loan of \$3,420,000. If built, this will be the second mill in the South producing southern pine newsprint. The other is the Southland Paper Mills at Lufkin, Texas, which ran off its first reel on January 17, 1940.

The Flintkote Company has announced that it will construct a \$2,000,000 factory at Meridian, Mississippi, to produce decorative and structural insulation and wallboard products from southern pine.

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ACTION BY NATIONAL FOREST RESERVATION COMMISSION

The purchase of 135,765 acres of land for National Forest purposes at an estimated cost of \$441,401 was approved by the National Forest Reservation Commission at its meeting on February 13.

The newly acquired lands, made up of 182 separate tracts in 18 states, will be added to 28 National Forests and Purchase Units. The largest single purchase approved by the Commission was one of 73,478 acres for the Superior in Minnesota.

A rising demand for reforestation of land that has in the last decades become too exhausted for farming, leaving families and communities stranded and in dire need of the employment opportunities that forests and forest industries can provide, brought about the increased purchase program in the recently opened purchase units in Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, and the Uharie in North Carolina.

Other outstanding transactions were the approved purchase of 6,895 acres in the Cherokee unit, Tennessee, containing saw-timber valued at \$71,426, Forest Service management of which is expected to combat destructive logging, practices now prevalent in the region; of 3,441 acres of well-timbered lands expected to increase local employment, now that it is under Federal management, in the Kisatchie unit, Louisiana.

The purchases approved for Region 8, together with acreage and cost, are:

<u>Region and Unit</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<u>Appalachian</u>			
Cherokee	Tennessee	6,893.10	\$84,440.47
Chattahoochee	Georgia	188.60	1,056.16
<u>Piedmont</u>			
Uharie	N. Carolina	1,424.60	5,677.20
<u>Southern Pine</u>			
Croatan	N. Carolina	5,051.30	3,788.47
Ocala	Florida	196.17	1,726.30
Conecuh	Alabama	855.86	2,240.05
Kisatchie	Louisiana	3,441.42	15,205.64
Davy Crockett	Texas	540.00	2,160.00

-- U. S. D. A. Information for Press

HE WHO RIDES MAY READ

The Florida National Forests are not overlooking any bets on getting a fire prevention message to the public. The Florida Associates, Inc., operators of the Tallahassee City Bus Line, have been converted to the "cause" and have agreed to carry fire prevention posters in the space designated for poster advertising

in the Tallahassee city buses.

Good work, Florida! That's an idea well worth copying.

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CATECHISM

On a recent trip to the field, I had stopped to watch three enrollees at their Friday afternoon task of cleaning up a Caterpillar 50 tractor. The tractor had seen better days. It was caked with swamp mud and the engine block was black and greasy with oil.

A man unknown to these boys walked up and stood for some little time watching them scrape off mud. Finally he asked, "What are you fellows doing?" I edged nearer the group and listened for the reply.

One of the enrollees said: "Cleaning up the tractor. We do this every Friday afternoon."

"Well, why do you clean it up?" the visitor asked from the depths of his great ignorance.

"I don't know unless it is to make it look pretty," one enrollee remarked after a considerable pause in which the three looked at one another questioningly. "I've been driving this tractor regularly for three and a half months, and this boy (indicating one of the enrollees) has been learning to drive for the past month."

"Well, this tractor is way out in the woods and no one other than yourselves ever see it, so why should you go to so much trouble just to make it look pretty? Don't you think that there must be some other reason?"

The student driver scratched his head and finally remarked, "Well, it is carrying around an awful load of dirt."

The third enrollee spoke up and said, "I believe that this mud would peel the paint and cause rust."

The questioner was evidently satisfied for he hummed a bit and watched the enrollees work. "How often do you change oil in the motor?" he finally blurted out. Startled, the three looked at one another as if to say "Is this guy nuts?"

The regular driver finally offered enlightenment--"Whenever Mr. Smith (the foreman in charge) tells us to change it."

"Well, don't you think that maybe Mr. Smith has some schedule of hours run or miles run to judge when the oil needs changing?"

The enrollees agreed that this was reasonable, but that they were going to question Mr. Smith about this.

This business had turned into a regular inquisition for the questioner next popped up with: "Why do you put oil in a tractor? There must be reasons for using motor oil there, what are they?" Boy, but that was a stumper! The three were now thoroughly interested and, after several false starts, all agreed that the oil was put in to 'grease' the motor."

Strangely enough these boys knew how "grease" worked and why it was used, but when the questioner mentioned "lubricate" he shot a blank! Not one of the three knew what "lubricate" meant, and from all indications this was their first contact with such a four-bit word.

The visitor was just warming up good, for he insisted that there must be other reasons for using motor oil, and they all agreed that they had seen stationary engines that did not have an oil pan like a tractor or truck. The student driver finally became convinced that the oil helped cool part of the motor and succeeded in convincing the other two that this was true. After the questioner had reminded them of the way they had oiled the leather washer in a bicycle pump, it dawned on them that the oil and piston rings together sealed the gases in the firing chambers from the oil in the crank case.

Turning to go the visitor idly remarked, "That's a mighty big tractor. What size is it? A 35 Cat?"

"No, it's a 50," all three chorused.

"A 50 what?" innocently inquired the questioner. "What does the 50 mean?"

"Gee! that man's a pest!" all three must have thought, but they stood into the fight except the regular driver who begged off because "I ain't had much schooling."

The student driver bravely answered "Why it means the tractor weighs fifty tons," and appeared to look down on the questioner from his great height of superior knowledge.

It required some time for the visitor to get these men to understand that the "50" meant 50 horsepower. As I turned to go, the enrollees apparently had decided to turn the tables on the questioner, for one of them shot him this question, "What is a horsepower?"

-- M. W. May, Jr., Training Officer,
Regional Office.

CORRECTION

Sahib F. C. Stone calls us to task about a mistake in the last issue of the Dixie Ranger. It was in our listing the visit to the Regional Office of Savasdi Mahaphol of the Siam Forest Service. Professor Stone, who refers to his loose-leaf geography, tells us that there's no such place any more, that the erstwhile Siam is now Thailand. (Am I embarrassed, yes, Siam.--Ed.)

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BOOK BARGAIN

In the September issue of the Dixie Ranger, the University Society, Publishers of Educational Books, 468 Fourth Avenue, New York City, offered a six volume "Nature Lovers Library," (originally priced at \$34.50) to members of the Service and Game Wardens at the special price of \$7.00 plus postage.

In answer to a recent inquiry about these books, the following was received from the Society:

"Our bound stock of 'Nature Lovers Library' is down to 50 sets and all remaining sheets are being closed out to Doubleday-Doran, who will bring out a fairly low priced article. However, their price will be at least twice what you and the others in the Service are paying. As regards these last few sets, it is a case of first come, first served."

If you missed the September notice about this offer and now desire a set of these books, mail your request direct to the Society. Payment can be made in three ways; check sent with order, payment made in two equal installments, the first to accompany the order, or books will be sent C.O.D.

-- Milton M. Bryan, Appalachian Forest Experiment Station

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SOUTH CAROLINA'S "RED DEVIL"

The Francis Marion "red devil" is a specially built fire truck painted a fiery red color. During the nine months of its life it has so successfully combatted forest fires as to become a matter of general interest.

The "red devil" started out as a Ford V-8 pickup. Before it was delivered to the Forest Service, it was converted by Marmon Harrington and Company into a specially built four-wheel-drive truck equipped with large oversize tires and a special transmission. By means of overload springs and the additional

power resulting from the special transmission, the capacity of this half-ton truck was stepped up to one ton.

The Francis Marion National Forest equipped the truck with a 165-gallon water tank, built-in seats for fire fighters, and the necessary hand fire fighting tools. The unit came equipped with a power driven pump.

Some of the features of the "red devil" are: a transmission with four speeds forward instead of three; nine-inch tires which give it added traction and added clearance; from the front axle to the ground it is over ten inches, and this is the lowest point on the truck. Of course, with all four wheels pulling there is added traction and power. The "red devil" is thought by some to be the most successful piece of fire fighting equipment developed in the Coastal Plain of Region 8.

What has the "red devil" done in nine months? It has been successful on approximately sixty fires. In spite of the soft ground and numerous swamps on the Francis Marion, the "red devil" has never been stuck on a fire. You cannot appreciate this without knowing the swampy condition of the Francis Marion Forest.

During February, 1940 there occurred seven fires and three false alarms during one afternoon on a Class 5 fire day. The large share of the credit for handling six of the seven fires goes to the "red devil". The seventh fire "got away" and burned 2,500 acres before it was finally suppressed. What a pity the "red devil" could not have been twins on that occasion.

-- F. W. Bennett, South Carolina

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THREE-MILLION ACRE WILDLIFE REFUGE ESTABLISHED IN ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

The largest wildlife refuge in the world, three million acres of land made up of 1,000 islands stretching 1,200 miles from Alaska toward Asia, has just been established by the Federal Government. It will be called the Aleutian Islands Wildlife Refuge of Alaska. Strict regulations to conserve wildlife resources of the area are now in force.

-- R-9 Daily Contact

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OPPORTUNITIES IN GRADUATE WORK

The School of Forestry at Oregon State College will have one or more graduate assistantships, paying \$550, open for the coming school year. Assistants are expected to spend eighteen

hours a week on official tasks. The remainder of the time is available for graduate study. Applications should be made before May 1, 1940 to the Dean of the School of Forestry, Corvallis, Oregon. Appointments will be made in the early summer.

Courses in Forest Soils at A & M: In order to be of service to all groups interested in forestry, and particularly to those interested in the problems of forest soils in the Southwest, the Department of Agronomy of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas announces that graduate courses in Forest Soils will be offered during the first term of the 1940 summer session, under Dr. Robert F. Chandler, Jr., Pack Assistant Professor of Forest Soils, Department of Agronomy, Cornell University. Since no such courses have been offered before in the Southwest, and since the State of Texas has about 35 million acres of forest lands which annually yield products valued at fifty million dollars, these courses and their attendant field trips should present a valuable opportunity to study forest soil problems in a new area. This school permits a graduate student to take a total of six credits in a six weeks summer term. Additional information and catalogue may be secured by writing to E. J. Howell, Registrar, College Station, Texas.

WHAT DID THE SUPERVISOR OF NORTH CAROLINA
SAY TO THE SUPERVISOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA?

We've a suspicion that it was something like this:

"Did you see how the Croatan was listed in the January 1940 Directory?"

It would be natural for the Pisgah to wonder about the Croatan being listed under the South Carolina Forests, as the Pisgah continues to carry this "white man's burden," which was placed under its jurisdiction on July 1, 1939. The division of Operation apologizes and asks that appropriate correction be made on page 52 of the Directory.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

"The outside limits of what scientists can accomplish as citizens are set by their ignorance. Not merely does no individual have more than a tiny fraction of the knowledge that is needed; all the scientists of the country put together do not know enough to solve many of the problems that a democracy faces. In addition to the responsibilities they share with all other citizens, scientific men have the special duty of trying to increase the

kind of knowledge required to deal intelligently with public problems. Their opportunities and responsibilities as citizens merge into their opportunities and responsibilities as investigators.

"From the social viewpoint, the most urgent item in the unfinished business of science is to increase knowledge of human behavior. If we had keener insight into individual psychology, we might not be able to alter fundamental drives, but we might be able to direct them into beneficent channels."

-- From "The Public Relations of Science," by Dr. W. C. Mitchell. SCIENCE (Weekly) Dec. 29, 1939.

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THE FAMILY ALBUM
BILL, THE BELLICOSE

"He-man Ranger" William Callendar these several years has been Assistant Supervisor of the Kisatchie. He is quiet and moody around the Alexandria office, but when afield and freer of the crush routine Bill occasionally lets his sentiments rise vociferously to the surface. A chance remark or observation is likely to fire his ire or rasp his irascibility. The higher his ire rises, the louder he shouts until the "conversation" explodes in a climactic bellow. That effectively terminates all further discussion till the muddied waters have had a half hour or so to clear.

My most deafening experience was two years ago, riding with Bill in a rattlebox pick-up over the gravelly roads of the Vernon. The loose windows, closed against the wind and dust, reverberated a chat-squelching thunder. Some innocent remark was made about the desirability of placing more "rustic signs about the National Forests." Bill let out a grunt and started off in this wise:

"Pete, those da--n recreation signs ruined my trip home to Oregon last summer. I drove up the Columbia River Gorge and what do I see! SIGNS!"

"STATE PARK, DEVELOPED BY THE CCC!"

"CAMP GROUND, DEVELOPED BY THE U. S. FOREST SERVICE AND THE CCC!"

"BEAUTY SPOT, DEVELOPED BY PARK SERVICE AND THE CCC!"

"Finally, KLAMATH FALLS DEVELOPED BY THE CCC! NOW YOU KNOW, PETE, THE KLAMATH FALLS WERE DEVELOPED BY THE LORD ALMIGHTY HIMSELF AND NOT BY THE CCC!"

(I am still groping for a retort to that one.)

-- Chigger Pete

SHEEP INJURY TO LONGLEAF PINE REPRODUCTION

It is readily accepted by foresters that sheep grazing is injurious to longleaf pine reproduction; but the extent of the injury, the susceptible height, the number of times nipped and the density of grazing has never been definitely determined.

The DeSoto National Forest has started a sheep damage study that should furnish much needed information on the subject. The study is being carried on in a fenced area of 1,300 acres on which the number of sheep grazed is controlled and can be varied as desired. During December, 1939 and January, 1940 the following data were secured:

	<u>Dec. 1939</u>	<u>Jan. 1940</u>
No. of sheep in pasture	77	112*
Percent of trees injured (nipped)	11%	43%
Height range of injured seedlings	5" to 32"	5" to 36"
Height range of damaged trees 5" to 12"	44%	40%
" " " " 13" to 24"	49%	47%
" " " " 25" to 36"	7%	13%

*Does not include lambs.

It is too early in the study to draw any definite conclusions, but it is indicating that a few sheep will cause a great deal of injury.

-- George A. Gerhart, Mississippi

OUR WESTERN NEIGHBORS

I have just returned from a vacation trip to Puget Sound country of the Pacific Northwest, where, believe it or not, the past winter was one of the mildest in years. Friends seemed to sort of doubt it when I told them not a flake of snow had fallen while I was there and that temperatures were balmy and springlike. Had Mother Nature gone completely daffy and sent the snows and blizzards to the sunny south this year, they seemed to ask.

The latter part of January, I attended the Pacific Northwest ski tournament at Leavenworth on the east side of the Cascade Mountains in Washington. At this place the U. S. Forest Service has constructed for winter recreation one of the best ski jumps in the country and that day I saw some of our best men leap into space and gracefully soar 253 feet. It is a sport that requires perfect coordination of mind and muscle, utmost confidence and steady nerves. The degree of perfection which these men have developed is remarkable. In over 200 jumps, there were

only two falls and these hardly could be classed as falls, since both men recovered their balance and continued down the course after having barely touched their hands to the ground. In competition, however, this counts against them.

The thing that impressed me most was the vigor and enthusiasm with which the general public, old and young, was taking to this winter sport. Special trains carry thousands of men, women, and children to our National Forest ski bowls every week end and additional thousands come in private cars. Thrills and spills go hand in hand and the mountain slopes afford suitable runways for expert and amateur alike. The more experienced skier makes use of the "ski tow", a continuous rope that pulls them to some high point on the mountain side and from where they set their own course to reach the bottom of the slope. This thrilling and healthful sport is making many National Forests as popular in winter as they are in summer.

-- Knut Lunnum, Ouachita, Arkansas

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PERSONNEL CHANGES

Albert F. Benedict has been reinstated in the Department as Sr. Blueprint & Photostat Operator in the Regional Division of Engineering.

Elvin T. Brasher, Administrative Assistant on the Ouachita, has been transferred to the Regional Office where he succeeds J. Robert Smith, Jr., as Inspector of Accounts in the Division of Fiscal Control.

Resignation has been accepted from Orlan G. Batts, Jr., who was employed as Jr. Stenographer on the Ocala Ranger District of the Florida.

Miss Percy B. Sheets has been probationally appointed as Under Clerk-Typist in the Division of Operation in the Regional Office.

Minor Asst. to Technician James R. Scott, Jr., has been transferred from the South Carolina State Forest Service to the Hiwassee District of the Cherokee.

On February 1 George K. Stephenson, Asst. Supervisor on the Alabama, was transferred to the Southern Station. He is succeeded on the Alabama by Ernest R. DeSilvia, formerly Ranger on the Choctaw District of the Florida. He will be assigned to flood surveys on the White River in Arkansas, we understand.

Jr. Forester George B. Ward, Jr., has been transferred from the Southern Station to the Ouachita as Assistant Ranger on the Cold Springs District.

On February 1 Associate Engineer Mat T. Maxwell, Jr., in the Division of CCC in the Regional Office, was transferred to the office of the Chief of Project, TVA, at Chattanooga, where he succeeds Engineer Carl T. Jones, who resigned to enter private practice.

The following intra-unit changes have been effected:

Florida: Jr. Forester Douglas A. Craig, from the Supervisor's Office to the Choctaw RD; Minor Asst. to Technician Woodrow W. Coman, from the Ocala to the Apalachicola RD.

Ozark: Minor Asst. to Technician John Q. Carson, Jr., from the Bayou to the Sylamore RD.

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CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

The following letter was written on March 8 to the Deans of Forest Schools by the Division of Personnel Management of the Chief's Office:

"The printed leaflet entitled 'The Purpose and Scope of the Junior Professional Assistant Examination in Recruiting Personnel for the Federal Service,' which was distributed at the time the announcement was issued stated: ' ... it is expected that it (the assembled examination) will be announced for either the second or third Saturday in March.' These dates did not prove to be practical.

"One of the Civil Service staff men in the Examining Division was contacted and advised the date has been tentatively set for Saturday, April 6. However, please understand that this is a tentative date and may yet be subject to change if the job of addressing the many thousand cards of admittance cannot be completed on schedule."

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PATTERSON PACKS A POWERFUL PUNCH

Bill Patterson of Engineering is being very modest in the role of hero which he earned for himself last week through his prompt and effective action in routing a would-be burglar in the Glenn Building.

A young woman working in the office opposite Patterson's laboratory cried out when a negro man ran in her office and grabbed her coat and dashed out with it. Bill ran out of his office before the man got out of the corridor and floored him with the first punch. Patterson rescued the coat and grabbed the thief by the collar, but the man jerked away and ran down stairs. Bill overtook him and knocked him down again and held him until the police arrived.

Patterson was at one time a boxer and his knowledge of the fistic art served a swell purpose in this case. The young lady concerned was lucky indeed that Bill was around. It is no time to lose a coat with this persistent winter weather hanging on.

THE LOOKOUT

Colonel Graves was in the Regional Office recently on the forestry education study which is taking him throughout the Southeast and which is sponsored by the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. He sees in the South "an extraordinary opportunity to make forestry pay great dividends."

Congratulations to Miss Josephine Laxton, librarian for the Appalachian Forest Experiment Station, on her re-election as president of the Buncombe County Library Association.

H. C. Walby, President and General Manager of Sandvile Canadian Limited and of the Sandvile Saw & Tool Company, Montreal, Canada, called at the Regional Office on February 28 in the interest of training CCC enrollees in saw filing. Mr. Walby had some interesting things to say about enrollee training in youth camps operated by the Canadian Government. A survey of woods operations in the South has convinced his company that there is a shortage of competent saw filers here, and he urges the setting up of courses to train enrollees for this line of work.

Chief Lecturer H. N. Wheeler has completed a lecture tour in Georgia and Florida assisting the State Foresters in a fire prevention educational campaign in each of these States. His work was centered largely in the middle portion of Florida and in the southern half of Georgia where the fire problem is greatest. 28 lectures and 2 radio talks were given in Florida and 16 lectures in Georgia. He says that the education work in these States was timely, as incendiary fires were keeping fire fighting agencies busy day and night.

Reno and revolutions notwithstanding, marriage continues to be a popular institution. The latest Regional Office bride is Kathleen Asher. Kathleen has forsaken her briefs in the Regional Office for a new kitchen apron. She was married to James R. Wilkinson on March 9 at Winship Chapel, First Presbyterian Church, Atlanta. Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson will live in Atlanta, and the Dixie Ranger, on behalf of their many friends, wishes them all the best of everything.

Visitors to the Regional Office during the month of February and early March were: Messrs. I. F. Eldredge, F. A. Ineson, J. R. Curry, Walton R. Smith from the Southern Station at New Orleans, La.; State Forester Harry Lee Baker, Tallahassee, Fla.; B. M. Lufburrow, Southern Pine Association, New Orleans, La.; R. A. Conard, Director, State CCC, Columbia, S.C.; Thos. W. Alexander, Consulting Forester, Cataloochee Ranch, Waynesville, N.C.; C. B. Anders, State Coordinator, SCS, Meridian, Miss.; L. J. Leffleman, SCS, Atlanta, Ga.; Dr. Walter B. Jones, Dept. of Conservation, Montgomery, Ala.; Lennon E. House, District Supervisor, Naval Stores Program, Jacksonville, Fla.; W. S. Brown, Director, Agricultural Extension Service, Athens, Ga.

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